GHANA'S STATEMENT

AT THE

GENERAL DEBATE

OF

THE THIRD PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE 2020
REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE TREATY ON THE NON-
PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK
29TH APRIL – 10TH MAY 2019

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Mr. Chairman,

My delegation joins the previous speakers to warmly congratulate you on your well-deserved election. We have confidence in your able leadership and wish to assure you of our support and cooperation.

Ghana associates herself with the statements delivered by the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the African Group and would like to make the following remarks in our national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,
Ghana remains convinced that multilateralism is a vital tool for the pursuit of global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, that can guarantee a safer and secure world. Multilateralism is particularly essential in the current global political environment, which is characterized by polarization, increasing role of non-state actors as well as new and emerging threats to peace and security.

The risk of new nuclear arms race and the existential threat posed by accidental or intentional use of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction is real. The death toll and sheer destruction as well as long-term damage to human health, the environment, climate and socio-economic development that may arise from any use of nuclear weapons should not be downplayed. There is urgent need for the international community to comply with applicable international laws, conventions and treaties, including the NPT and other important disarmament treaties and instruments. This is fundamental to our existence today and to safeguard the better world we seek to build.

Mr. Chairman,
Ghana remains fully committed to the NPT as the cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, and continues to pursue policies that are compatible and consistent with the Treaty.

It is, however, a matter of concern to my delegation that the overall objective of achieving a world without nuclear weapons in the context of the NPT, has eluded us for decades. This notwithstanding, we believe that a balanced
implementation of previously agreed steps and actions under the Treaty by all State Parties, will restore trust and confidence required for meaningful progress towards general and complete disarmament.

We, therefore, expect that the 2020 review cycle of the Treaty will reaffirm the significance and validity of commitments of State Parties to the outcomes of the 1995, 2000, and 2010 review conferences, especially on nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Significantly, the 2020 revcon coincides with two important anniversaries, the golden anniversary of the Treaty’s entry into force and the silver commemoration of its indefinite extension. We call on State Parties on this auspicious moment in time to demonstrate political will and flexibility to avert the difficulties that led to the failure of the 9th NPT revcon. We also urge non-State parties to use the occasion to join the NPT as non-nuclear weapons states for the Treaty to achieve full universality.

We wish to urge in this regard that the pursuit of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation should not be used as basis by some States to deny the inalienable rights of others to the peaceful use of nuclear technology for energy purposes. Peaceful development of nuclear technology must, however, be conducted under IAEA supervision and in compliance with its safeguards, additional protocols and verification regimes.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We believe that a world without nuclear weapons will be in our collective interest and that the only guarantee to ensuring total elimination of such weapons is to completely prohibit them. In this connection, we are encouraged by the successful adoption of the TPNW in July 2017 to complement and reinforce the NPT against the backdrop of humanitarian and environmental consequences of any use of nuclear weapons. Ghana has signed the Treaty and internal mechanisms are well advanced towards its ratification.

We also acknowledge the significant contribution of Nuclear Weapon Free Zones (NWFZ), including the Treaty of Pelindaba, to the overall objective of a world without nuclear weapons. We renew our call on all stakeholders to
continue to engage with a view to ensuring that the Middle East region is also free of nuclear weapons.

We underline the importance of the CTBT to the nuclear non-proliferation regime and urge all States that are yet to sign and ratify the Treaty, particularly the remaining eight (8) Annex II States to do so without further delay.

**Mr. Chairman,**
A verifiable FMCT to address existing stockpiles and to ban future production of all fissile materials remains an important step towards nuclear disarmament. In this regard, we call for the commencement of negotiation of a possible FMCT, ideally under the auspices of the Conference on Disarmament (CD).

**Mr. Chairman,**
The role of the UN is pivotal in dealing with existing global challenges to the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation environment. We, therefore, welcome the Secretary-General’s disarmament agenda and his efforts to expedite progress and contribute to securing the world and future generations from the existential threat of nuclear arsenals and other weapons of mass destructions.

In conclusion, Ghana reiterates our sincere hope that, as we approach the 2020 revcon, NPT State Parties will not allow their narrow interests and the pursuit of hegemonic power and dominance to override the general good and objective of achieving complete and verifiable disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. The nuclear arms race will not have any winners, and if we do not resolve and act collectively to stop it, we will all be losers in the end, a scenario we cannot contemplate or allow to happen.

I thank you for your attention.